

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 8, 2003, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by October 8, 2003.

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for an informality. Claims 2, 6, 11, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-6, 11-13, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,955,807 to Kajiura et al. Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiura et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,894,570 to Kaneyuki. Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiura et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,683,233 to Ruhl. Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiura et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,239,218 to Hashimoto et al.

Turning first at the objection to the drawings, Figs. 1-4 have been labeled with the legend "Prior Art", as requested by the Examiner. Amended Figs. 1-14 are attached hereto.

Regarding the rejection of the claims under Section 112, second paragraph, all of the claims have been amended to change or delete instances of arguably indefinite language, include those instances noted by the Examiner in the Office Action, and to replace the phrase "characterized in that" with "wherein".

With regard to the substantive rejections of the claims, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly define the subject matter of the present invention over the cited references by adding the features of claim 2, which has been canceled. The Applicant respectfully submits that the new features added to claim 1 are not anticipated by the primary reference to Kajiura, nor are they suggested or shown by any of the other cited references.

Amended claim 1 defines that, in addition to the rotationally symmetrical base body 5, which constitutes the hub 4, the rotor body comprises one or more lamellas 1, 2, 3, each lamella 1, 2, 3 having a continuously uniform thickness in the direction of the rotational axis A of the rotor and at least one lamella 3 has rotationally asymmetrical screw-connecting pieces 17 constituted by the lamella 3.

These features added to claim 1 are disclosed in the specification on page 9, line 34 to page 10, line 2, in connection with claim 2, and in the specification on page 7, lines 25-30 and page 8, lines 32 and 33.

The patent to Kajiura et al fails to disclose any rotationally asymmetrical screw-connecting pieces constituted by one of the lamellas 1210 or 1220 of the rotor 1200. As can be seen in the schematic cross sectional views of Kajiura, both of the differently shaped lamellas 1210, 1220 are rotationally symmetrical, in that every hole, for example holes 1224, 1225, and 1211, or every other formation, such as rib portions 1223, has a counterpart, which is symmetrical to the center axis of the rotor body. In contrast, Fig. 7 of the drawings of the present application shows a lamella 3 having a rotationally asymmetric inner

contour, whereby the protrusions do not have any counterparts symmetrical to the center axis. These protrusions replace the screw-connection pieces 17 provided in the cited art, as shown in Figs. 1-3 of the present application, which had to produced at a high cost in terms of materials and machining.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-16 as amended are patentable over the cited references. The Applicant further requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 and reconsideration of the claims as herein amended.

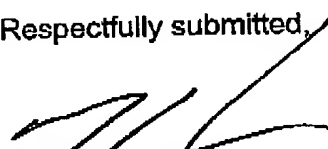
In light of the foregoing arguments in support of patentability, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,


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